

# Union Township Environmental Commission

Minutes for November 10, 2009 @ 7:00 PM

Our notice as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Express-Times satisfies the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act. This notice is also posted on the Township website, and a copy is filed with the Municipal Clerk.

I. **Roll call:** Present: Sandy Stiger, Michele McBride, Steve Hurford, John Wingler, Bill Harclerode and Josh Boyle were present. Kathleen Corcoran had to attend a concurrent Planning Board / Township Committee meeting. Chuck La Tournous and Chuck Neary sent notice that they would be unable to attend.

## II. Approval of Minutes:

1. Minutes from the October 2009 meeting – October meeting minutes were moved, seconded and approved subject to a revision from Bill, that Chuck La Tournous had sent notice that he would be unable to attend the October meeting. Bill will revise and publish the final October minutes.

## III. Old Business:

1. Trails- perimeter trail at Finn Road Park (Michele): We can begin staking the Finn Road trail after Township Atty. Peter Jost completes a Green Acres requirement to determine, in writing, whether the new trail is considered a change of use for the park. NJDEP requires official notification only if the township attorney determines this trail to be a new use of the park per Green Acres Requirements section 7:36-25.6 (Change in Purpose or Use for Funded or Unfunded Parkland).
2. Environmental easement database (John, Chuck N.): John stated that he would meet with Chuck in November to start the project.
3. Stormwater Management - required education events (Michele): Michele composed and issued a letter to Twp. Engineer Kevin Smith detailing the various activities that UTEC is undertaking to meet the new state requirements and attain the required 'ten points' required. She will forward NJDEP stormwater education materials for Chuck La Tournous to add to our website. She presented a new Stormwater Education bulletin board which was temporarily placed in the meeting room; she will find a permanent place for it with the township clerk. Bill will forward some additional poster info to Michele for the bulletin board.
5. NJ Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act: Bill discussed this with Mayor Dziubek, who will take it to the Committee to determine whether the township desires to form a Shade Tree Committee.

## IV. Correspondence

1. Notice from NJDEP regarding Edna Mahan cogeneration permit. Bill will forward to Township Engineer Kevin Smith.
2. Tree City USA Application.

## **V. New Business: None**

## **VI. Chair's Report**

1. PIG Grants are due December 15. Bill discussed a letter from West Amwell written to the County objecting to the current process. Michele will forward to Paige DiRoberto, Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

## **VII. Reports of Subcommittees**

1. Open Space (Sandy Stiger, Chuck Neary): Sandy reported that she is completing a review with photographs of the Finn Road Park property. Photos taken at Scheuing and Milligan properties have been taken and will be placed into the files in the UTEC office for purposes of future monitoring.
2. Property Stewardship (Michele McBride)
  - I. Hoffman Park- still waiting for the County Attorney to review the Request for Proposal (RFP) forwarded to them last June by John Trontis, Parks Department Director. A Stewardship meeting was held on October 27 at which a draft lease agreement written by Michele was reviewed and modifications made. Draft lease agreement has been forwarded to the Twp Attorney for review. John Wingler is obtaining a quotation from ADT for wireless security at the Hoffman House. At the Stewardship meeting in October an outline was built for an RFP for the North Hoffman barns. Michele promised the Stewardship group that she would flesh out an RFP draft on the barns for review at the next Stewardship subcommittee meeting (November 24).
  - II. Douglas - Township Committee has approved a resolution authorizing the sale of the Douglass Farm. The auction is scheduled for December 10. The Stewardship group met at the Douglass farmhouse on November 4 to check building conditions. After review, the group decided to schedule a farmhouse 'blitz cleanup' for November 14. Michele is inviting UTEC and UTC members to help if they can.
  - III. Milligan Farms-The Stewardship Committee of UTEC recommends that the property consisting of the farmhouse, two barns and 2 1/2 acres of land be auctioned off in order to preserve the buildings. Another option is to utilize these buildings as part of the COAH commitment, if that is possible. Michele drafted a Trail Grant proposal for 2010 and has forwarded it to the Township Engineer, UTC and UTEC members. Bill Harclerode stated that he would obtain a copy of the Bethlehem Township RFP for farmland leasing to help Union Township draft an RFP for leasing of the Union Township farmlands (encompassing Finn Road Park, Milligan Farm, and Douglass, for now).
3. Planning Board Report - no report.
4. Transportation (Bill Harclerode)
  - I. Road Noise. Local legislative support for unmuffled engine braking noise enforcement and associates rule changes will begin to take effect after the new local officials elected in November take office in January. Ed

Smith, Mike Dorherty's assistant, supports our efforts and will help in the new year.

5. Communication / Education (Michele Mc Bride, Chuck La Tournous)
  - a. Newsletter: Sandy completed an article on aquatic invasive plants for the newsletter and forwarded to Michele. Michele will work on the newsletter with a goal to publish in the first quarter, 2010.
  - b. Website – Michele will work with Chuck L this month to add a page to the UTEC website for stormwater education.
6. Sidney Brook Project 319h Grant (Chuck Neary, Bill Harclerode)
  - I. Princeton Hydro (Dr. Sousa) will schedule the next stakeholder meeting to review Watershed Characterization Report and discuss Watershed Protection Plan. After that, it will be presented to the public at a UTEC meeting. Bill will follow-up with Princeton Hydro on this. We are actually ahead of schedule; not due for finalization before May 2010. Will try to hold prior to the end of the year, dependent upon Princeton Hydro's schedule.
  - II. Quarterly report status: Q11 processed, signed, and completed; Q12 is now due.
7. UTC Highlands Committee (Kathy Corcoran, Bill Harclerode)
  - Township intends to opt in to the Highlands Planning area. Highlands sub-committee is currently modifying Modules of the Highlands Master Plan to fit into the Township planning documents and a meeting is concurrently in process to review and update the township's conformance to the Highlands Regional Master Plan Modules 3, 6 and 7. The current opt-in date in December 2009.
8. Sustainable NJ Certification (C. La Tournous)
  - Chuck obtained a copy of our resolution from the township committee and submitted it along with our registration to Sustainable NJ. It was accepted, and we are now listed as an active participating community on the Sustainable NJ website. Our next step will be to identify action items already completed and provide documentation. According to the website, only one community has obtained conformance so far, Woodbridge Township.

### **Hearing of Citizens**

None

### **Adjournment**

It was moved, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting, and UTEC members adjourned to the Highlands Committee Meeting upstairs.

Meeting minutes by: Michele McBride